

Council on Postsecondary Education  
September 21, 2003

## Responsive Ph.D. Initiative

The University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville have been selected as partners in the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation's Responsive Ph.D. initiative.

Growing numbers of employers from the academic and private sectors have called for reforms in doctoral education in the United States. While few question the subject expertise of doctoral graduates, many lack the skills needed to teach effectively, communicate their knowledge, and work in teams. Doctoral programs also need to do more to help students connect their learning more fully to the challenges faced by communities and society. The Responsive Ph.D. initiative supports universities addressing these issues and efforts to increase the quality of the doctoral experience for students. Kentucky's significant investment in faculty, research, and doctoral education through its Bucks for Brains program and the collaborative request for participation involving both of Kentucky's doctoral institutions and the Council contributed to being included in the program. Other participating universities include Yale, Princeton, Duke, Howard, and the Universities of Michigan, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Texas, Indiana, and California-Irvine.